



## Green Practices Commission

6801 Delmar Boulevard, University City, Missouri 63130, Phone: (314) 862-6767, Fax: (314) 863-9146

### Meeting Minutes – University City Green Practices Commission

**September 10, 2015**

Location: Heman Park Community Center  
Attendees Present: Lois Sechrist, Dianne Benjamin, Tim Michels, Jeff Mishkin, Scott Eidson, Steve Kraft (Council Liaison), Jenny Wendt (Staff Liaison)

Absent Excused: Richard Juang  
Guests: Mayor Shelley Welsh  
Rich Wilson  
Jana Flora (Resident)

1. Meeting called to Order, Roll Call at 6:00 p.m.
2. Opening Round
  - a) Bob reported that the St. Louis County Building Code Review Committee has recommended weakening the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code. It appears to be dominated by associates of home builders. Bob attended several meetings of a Sierra Club group hoping to get the County to adopt a stronger code.
  - b) Tim has been working with other departments within Washington University toward a Solar Decathlon – a worldwide competition. They are looking for sponsors at this point. It is a 2 year process to do the project.
  - c) Dianne and Jenny staffed a table at the Native Plant Landscaping Open House in the bird garden behind Centennial Commons. The event was a success.
  - d) Jeff represented the GPC at a University City Chamber of Commerce meeting event at Salt and Smoke. He also announced the annual Chamber of Commerce Golf Tournament at the Normandy Golf Club.
3. Approval of Minutes
  - a) July meeting minutes were approved with one amendment
  - b) August meeting minutes were approved
4. Special Presentations
  - a) Mayor Shelly Welsch discussed the International Council for Local Environmental (ICLEI) Compact of Mayors, a global coalition of mayors and city officials committing to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions, enhance resilience to climate change, and track their progress publically. The Compact for Mayors was started the end of 2014. There is a goal to get 100 cities to join, right now there are 50 and none from Missouri so far. The mayor would like the Green Practices Commission to endorse the City joining this program. An updated Greenhouse Gas Inventory would need to be done. The commission suggested budgeting staff or an intern to do this inventory. The commission will continue to discuss.
  - b) Rich Wilson, outgoing Director of Public Works and Parks, thanked the commission for their diligence on green priorities. Rich indicated that Sinan Alpaslan, the current City Engineer, will be the interim Director of Public Works and Parks. Rich also discussed the proposed idea of outsourcing the compost operation for the following reasons:
    - i. The current sight is 1.8 acres, but the operation needs 15 acres to adequately process the materials brought in. This space is not available or affordable within or near the municipal boundaries.
    - ii. Missouri Department of Natural Resources (MoDNR) has pointed out numerous environmental violations at our collection and distribution sites. The City has struggled

to stay in compliance to avoid expensive fines, which has added extra costs. Violations include smell, runoff, pollution and spill-over in the River des Peres.

- iii. The cost to process leaves and yard waste is more than \$450,000 per year which does not include collection of leaves, delivery of mulch to residents, or a new leaf grinder which is needed in the near future.
  - iv. The majority of leaf mulch produced is given away free to residents and commercial landscapers outside the city and the delivery of compost and leaf mulch cost more than the manpower needed.
  - v. It is being proposed to use St. Louis Compost to transfer the take over the operation. The City can purchase the processed mulch at a reduced rate at an estimated total cost.
- c) Jana Flora, a new resident, attended the meeting as an observer to see what the Green Practices Commission was all about.

## 5. New Business

- a) Community Solar Program – Tim will discuss this under reports.
- b) Compost/Mulch Site Discussion – The commission agreed with Rich Wilson that the removal of the compost site was a good decision, with a few questions and caveats:
  - i. The City will still be performing leaf collection
  - ii. The GPC create a program for residents on how to make their own leaf mulch.
  - iii. If a contract is signed with St. Louis Compost, it is not for more than one year (or no term).
  - iv. The residents would still have the ability to have mulch delivered at cost.
  - v. The Commission voted and endorsed the following:  
*“The Green Practices Commission endorses outsourcing composting services to a vendor with a non-binding contract for a one-year trial period.  
The Green Practices Commission recommends the City make bulk purchases of mulch and redistribute to residents at cost.”*
- c) GPC Goals – The commission will meet on December 10<sup>th</sup> specifically to reassess the Goals. Jeff Mishkin will lead this discussion.

## 6. Old Business

- a) Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program - The PACE ordinance was presented for the first reading at the September 8<sup>th</sup> City Council Meeting. The second and third reading will be September 24<sup>th</sup>.
- b) Recycling Drop-Off Area – The design of the drop-off area is underway. Plastic film will be added but Styrofoam will not.
- c) Green Cities Challenge – Jenny met with the pilot group of Green Cities in the challenge which include Maplewood, MO, Highland IL, Madison County IL, and Alton IL. The group has the basic challenges as the Green business challenge but during the pilot program the Cities will alter them to fit cities more appropriately.

## 7. Reports

- a) Land Use/Open Space/Parks – Rich Wilson reported the following sustainable practices underway at U City parks:
  - i. Fogerty Park Master Plan has been submitted to Parks Commission and includes native landscaping and LED lights.
  - ii. Millar Park has raingardens, native landscaping, and LED lights installed.
  - iii. Lewis Park has raingardens, native landscaping, and LED lights installed.
- b) Energy – Tim Michels reported on two items:
  - i. The Community Solar Program, Ameren is looking for pilot areas. Tim is pursuing this for University City.
  - ii. Tim has investigated and suggested the City consider a Waste to Fuel option for City Compost where the leaves and other yard waste can be converted to fuel.
- c) Green Buildings – No reports.
- d) Council Liaison – No reports.

8. Closing Round - No comments
9. Meeting adjourned at 7:40pm